

Statement Before
The General Law Committee
Tuesday
March 8, 2011

Re: SB 1131: An Act Concerning Consumer Protection

Good Afternoon Senator Doyle, Representative Taborsak and members of the General Law Committee. My name is Margherita Giuliano. I am a pharmacist and the Executive Vice President of the Connecticut Pharmacists Association, which is a professional organization representing 1,000 pharmacists in the state of Connecticut. I am here today to seek clarification on SB 1131: AAC Consumer Protection.

Section 7 (b) of this legislation simply restates current law that the pharmacist must inform the patient or a representative of the patient of a generic substitution at the time of dispensing and must inform the practitioner of the substitution at the earliest reasonable time. As many of you are aware, many health benefits require that pharmacies dispense generic medications unless the prescriber writes "brand medically necessary" or "no substitution."

Section (f) has added language that the pharmacist must label the prescription with the name of the dispensed drug product and with a statement that the dispensed drug product is a substitute for a brand name drug product, if applicable. Such statement shall include the name of the brand name drug product. I would look for clarification from this Committee that if this information is provided on the prescription label, it will be considered as meeting the intent of this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.